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**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

a ban on all news related to the status of construction work on the Berlin Outer Freight Ring has been imposed. This order was provoked by a press conference held by RPD Berlin about one month ago. At this conference, it was stated that the Berlin rail circuit was scheduled to be completed by the spring of 1957. At the conference it was also made known that the Firkenverder - Wusterrark sections of this rail circuit had been completed and that construction work on the last remaining gap between Golm and Saarn had just been started.

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2. It was learned that the SED Central Committee strongly objected to the reported completion date of the Berlin rail circuit in view of the measures possibly required for the clarification of the Berlin situation after the Foreign Ministers' Conference in October. It appears that the SED Central Committee still believes in a neutralization of Berlin. Although the Berlin rail circuit will considerably ease the present strain on freight traffic, the basic concept underlying the designs of this project was a possibility of completely eliminating the western sectors of Berlin from GDR railroad traffic.
3. It was pointed out in this connection that on 1 September, the number of workers employed on the erection of a railroad embankment through Lake Templin on the railroad line between Golm and Saarmund was increased from 3,000 to 5,000. Another remarkable fact was that the piecework wages of the construction workers employed there had been increased, while the piecework wages of construction workers in other nationalized enterprises are scheduled to be cut.
4. [redacted] the construction of a railroad embankment through Lake Templin had not been included in preliminary construction plans of the railroad administration. It was also learned that the last remaining gap of the Berlin rail circuit was scheduled to be completed by 1 October 1956. The GDR press has been directed not to report on the progress of construction work. The GDR Ministry of Traffic has reserved for itself the right to inform the public on this project in due course.

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Comment. The report is noteworthy because it indicates that the GDA may soon re open the Ferlin question.

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